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*Leprosy in the Philippine Islands.*

MANILA, P. I., January 28, 1901

SIR: Referring to your letter (F. L. G., R. M. W.) of April 9, 1900, requesting a report on the prevalence of leprosy in the Philippine Islands, I have the honor to inform you that I have delayed acknowledging receipt of it, thinking that perhaps I might be able to secure data for basis of a report, but at present the task of furnishing one that would be of either statistical or scientific value seems hopeless.

Leprosy is widely prevalent over the entire archipelago, but the greatest number of cases exists in Southern Luzon and the southern islands. It is quite prevalent in Cebu, the number of lepers being estimated at 2,000. The total number of cases in the islands is estimated at 20,000, but the actual number is not known, and a census is difficult on account of the majority of cases being in the rural districts.

The cases in Manila and surrounding country are isolated in a substantial hospital, under the auspices of the Manila board of health. There is also a leper hospital at Cebu.

An attempt at segregation and isolation of the lepers in the islands has been made by the army officials, and several months ago orders were issued from headquarters directing that a hospital in each district be set aside for the isolation of the lepers that could be apprehended, and a board of army officers was recently detailed to investigate several islands for the purpose of selecting a suitable one for a leper colony, the intention being to deport all cases of leprosy to this place for segregation and isolation.

I think that in a few months this will have been established, and more definite information will be obtainable.

Respectfully,

J. C. PERRY,  
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,  
Chief Quarantine Officer for the Philippine Islands.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

PORTO RICO.

*Report from Ponce—Status of smallpox.*

PONCE, P. R., February 18, 1901.

SIR: Through chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended February 16, 1901.

Three vessels were inspected and passed, and 5 bills of health were issued, on which I have been stating that the port and shipping are free from smallpox.

\* \* \* \* \*

The general health and sanitary condition of the city is comparatively good.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

PONCE, P. R., February 25, 1901.

SIR: Through chief quarantine officer for Porto Rico I have the honor to transmit herewith the quarantine and abstract of bills of health reports for the week ended February 23, 1901.

Five vessels were inspected and passed. The Spanish steamship *Isla de Panay* from Havana, Colon, Sabanilla, Puerto Cabello, and La Guayra, was held in quarantine. She brought no passengers or cargo for Ponce, only touching here for passengers and cargo for Europe. Eight bills of health were issued.

Since my last report, 31 new cases of smallpox were reported, making a total of 67 cases and 1 death. Twenty-one have recovered leaving 44 cases now in quarantine.

Every physician is required to report all cases of sickness, and any suspicious ones are looked into. Considerable vaccination is being done, and funds for the isolation camp and other expenses are being subscribed by the merchants. Work is to begin to-day, and it will soon be ready for use.

With the more active measures now being put into force, there should be a diminution of the cases and a final end of the epidemic.

Respectfully,

W. W. KING,

*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Inspection of immigrants at San Juan during the week ended February 23, 1901.*

SAN JUAN, P. R., *February 26, 1901.*

SIR: I submit herewith report of alien steerage passengers arriving at this port during the week ended February 23, 1901:

Date.	Vessel.	Where from.	No. of immigrants.
Feb. 19	Provisional flag steamship Julia.....	Cuba, Santo Domingo, Ponce, and Mayaguez, P. R.	9
Do....	Spanish steamship <i>Isla de Panay</i> .....	Havana, Colon, Sabanilla, Puerto Cabello, La Guayra, and Ponce, P. R.	10
	Total .....		19

Respectfully,

H. S. MATHEWSON,

*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.,  
Chief Quarantine Officer for Porto Rico.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

RUSSIA.

*Report from London on plague in Southeastern Russia.*

LONDON, ENGLAND, *February 23, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward the following statement regarding plague in Southeastern Russia received from the United States consul at Moscow:

At the present time it is considered that this epidemic has been entirely checked in the inhabited portions of the Astrakhan and Uralsk districts in the southeastern parts of European Russia; still 32 special squads are searching the prairie where the Kerghees tribes are settled. These tribes are about half wild. They breed horses for the market, also cattle.